



BOE Chairman calls for audit of BOE's building repair costs

SACRAMENTO

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- **Says building is a white elephant**
- **“One of the biggest blunders in state history”**

In a state known for blunders, it must be especially onerous to toil in the California State Board of Equalization's headquarters building in Sacramento where sewage and mold are seemingly commonplace irritants. At least according to the chairman of the BOE, Jerome Horton.

He says it's time for the Legislature to audit all of the millions of dollars in spending that's gone into upkeep of the building.

He says the 22-year-old building at 450 N Street in Sacramento is too small for the BOE's 2,900 Sacramento-based workers and the more than one million taxpayer records they need to have at hand.

The state moved into the building in 1993, a year after it was completed. Since then it's spent \$59 million dollars on what BOE Member George Runner terms “remediation and modernization costs” – and the spending is far from over.

According to Mr. Runner, more than \$40 million more needs to be poured into the building including \$10 million to replace sewage pipes and the cleaning of mold from the ductwork.

“Purchasing and continuing to operate this building is one of the biggest blunders in state history. This building costs more than the State Capitol to operate, and it is fiscally irresponsible for the state to continue to throw good money into a bad building,” says Mr. Horton. “I am confident the audit will show it is in the best interest of our BOE employees and the taxpayers of California to escape this fiscal nightmare.”

The Board of Equalization will consider sponsorship of legislation by Assemblyman Roger Dickinson, D-Sacramento, during its monthly meeting on March 25. Assembly Bill 1656 states legislative intent to authorize the Department of General Services, with the BOE's consent, to enter into agreements for planning, constructing, and acquiring facilities to consolidate and relocate.

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